

MARVEL

1

MacKAY
VITTI
GURU-eFX

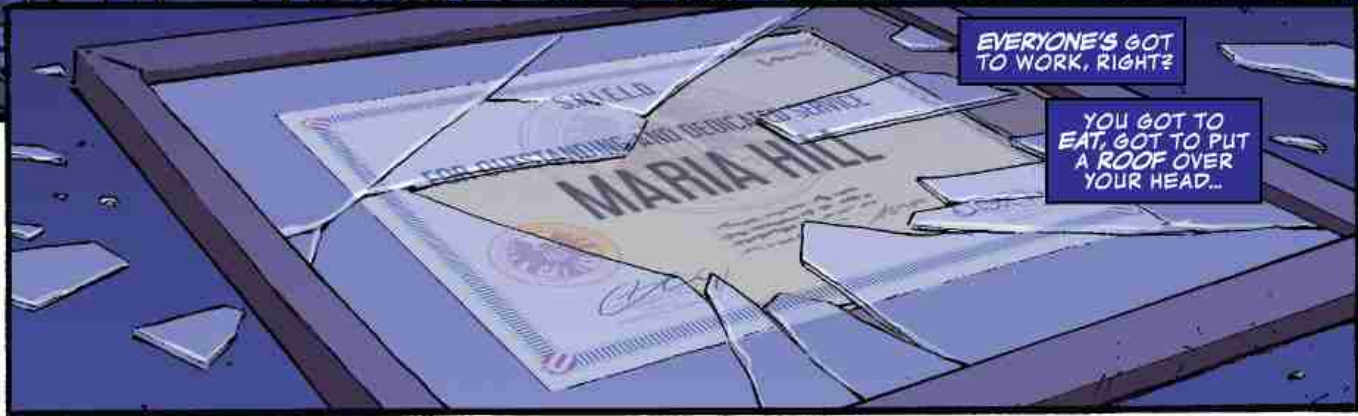
TASKMASTER




2013
crf



WHEN YOU GET
DOWN TO IT, IT'S
JUST WORK.



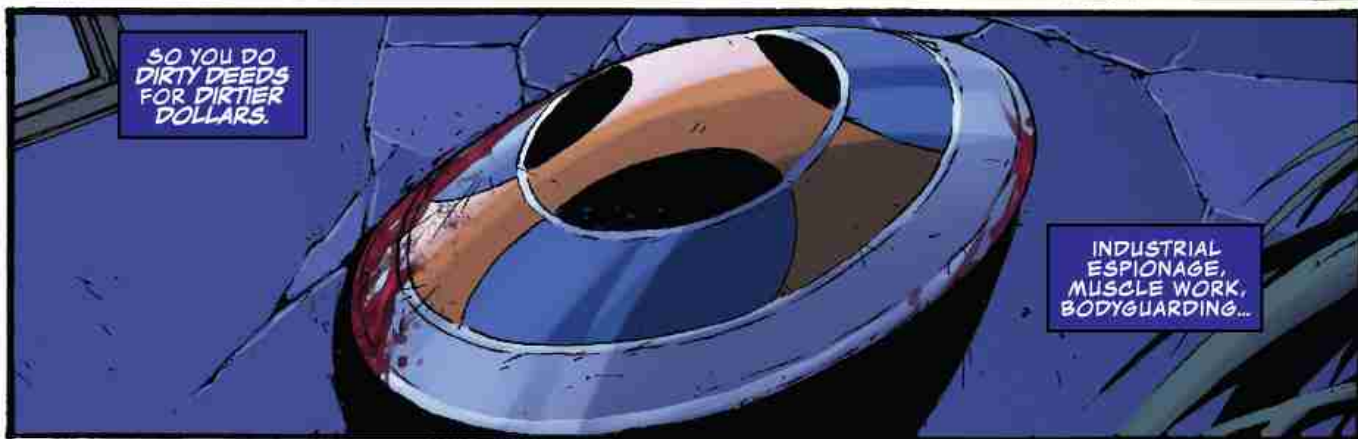
EVERYONE'S GOT
TO WORK, RIGHT?

YOU GOT TO
EAT, GOT TO PUT
A ROOF OVER
YOUR HEAD...



AND THESE
OUTFITS DON'T
COME CHEAP.

THROW SOME
HENCHMEN IN THE
MIX AND, BUDDY, YOU
CAN'T AFFORD TO
TAKE IT EASY.



SO YOU DO
DIRTY DEEDS
FOR DIRTIER
DOLLARS.

INDUSTRIAL
ESPIONAGE,
MUSCLE WORK,
BODYGUARDING...



...MURDER...

HELL, EVEN
THE LOWEST
OF THE LOW...

**4TH ANNUAL MAGGIA
CELEBRITY DOUBLES
CHARITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT.
NEW JERSEY.**

...GOLF.

THE MONEY I'M
PAYING YOU, AND
YOU GOT TO TURN
UP IN A GETUP
LIKE THAT?

YOU'RE
PAYING ME FOR
A WIN, CALHOUN.
NOT TO SELL OUT
MY PROFESSIONAL
IDENTITY.



THIS
OUTFIT IS AWARD-
WINNING.

"BEST SKULL
COSTUME,"
THREE YEARS
RUNNING.

I BEAT
OUT THE RED
SKULL. THE
RED SKULL!
IMAGINE!

THE SKULL,
THE CAPE, THE
PIRATE BOOTS--
IT'S A LOT.

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
MINIMAL?
LOOK AT
BULLSEYE.

PSSHH.
ANYONE CAN
MAKE BLACK
AND WHITE (AND
BLUE) LOOK
GOOD. IT'S A
COP-OUT.

LACKS
PANACHE.







GEEZI!

OKAY.

OKAY.

CLOCKED THE MUZZLE FLARE IN THE BUSHES TO THE WEST.

PWT

PWT

PWT



SPENT ALL NIGHT WATCHING FILE FOOTAGE OF JACK NICKLAUS, TIGER WOODS AND ARNOLD PALMER.

TOK!

GOOD ENOUGH NOW TO MATCH BULLSEYE SHOT FOR SHOT.



THEY KEPT SHOOTING AFTER CALHOUN BOUGHT IT, SO THEY EITHER WANT BULLSEYE, STEPANSKY...

...OR ME.

блин!

KRSH



OH PLEASE, PLEASE LET IT BE BULLSEYE.



DAMMIT, WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BULLSEYE?!

PWT
PWT
PWT

OKAY. SWITCH
GEARS. FORGET
GOLF...

...TIME FOR
SOMETHING
SPICIER.

HELL ON
WHEELS?

NO BIG
DEAL.

♪WORKIN' 9 TO 5,
WHAT A WAY TO
MAKE A LIVIN'♪

WHUMMP

BEEP

NEED A
BASTARD? CALL
TASKMASTER! HOW
CAN WE FACILITATE
YOUR CRIMINAL
ENTERPRISE
TODAY?

HOW MANY
OF THOSE
BULLETS YOU THINK
YOU CAN OUTFRIN,
TASKMASTER?



POTENTIAL CUSTOMER, YOUR CONCERN IS APPRECIATED, BUT--

MAGGIA AREN'T GOING TO PROTECT YOU. YOU'VE GOT NO WEAPONS, NOT THAT IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH HER.

LISTEN, PAL, I'M A LITTLE BUSY HERE--



"--AS IT LOOKS LIKE I BROUGHT A GOLF CART TO A MOTOCROSS."

BRNNNN



LISTEN UP. YOU DON'T GET OFF THE GROUNDS OF THIS COUNTRY CLUB, YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.

I CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE, BUT YOU NEED TO GET TO THE SOUTHWEST ACCESS ROAD.



WELL, THAT'S AWFUL KIND OF YOU.

REAL CHRISTIAN CHARITY.

PWT PWT PWT



CALL ME ST. JUDE.

I HAVE A THING FOR LOST CAUSES.

WELL, I HAVE A THING FOR IMPLEMENTS OF VIOLENCE, SO YOU'LL EXCUSE ME A MOMENT WHILE I RE-ARM.

ARCHERY

A BOW TO A GUNFIGHT?

TASKMASTER, I KNEW YOU WERE DUMB, BUT DAMN.

YOU EVER SEEN HAWKEYE AT WORK?

BECAUSE I HAVE.

AND WHAT I SEE, I CAN DO.

...WASP-ASS COUNTRY CLUB, DON'T EVEN PACK BROADHEAD ARROWS...

YOU'RE BETTER OFF RUNNING.

GOING TO HAVE TO LET YOU GO, FRIEND.

I NEED MY FOCUS.

SOUTHWEST ACCESS ROAD. I'M GONE IN FIVE MINUTES.

BEEP

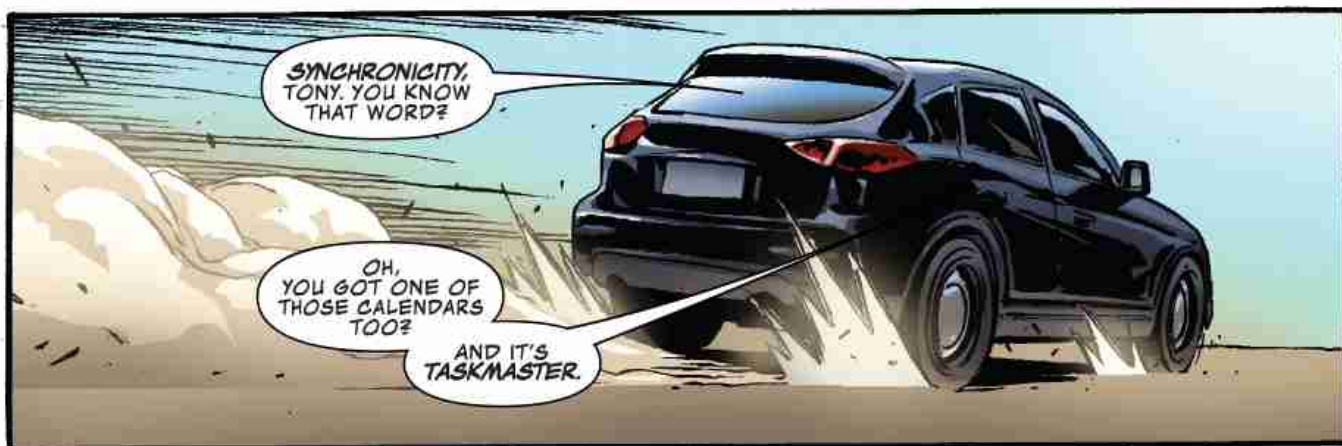
OKAY.

BREATHE IN.









SYNCHRONICITY, TONY. YOU KNOW THAT WORD?

OH, YOU GOT ONE OF THOSE CALENDARS TOO?

AND IT'S TASKMASTER.



SYNCHRONICITY. "MEANINGFUL COINCIDENCES."

AND YESTERDAY'S WORD WAS "LOQUACIOUS." SO WHAT?

NOT ONE YEAR AGO, I PULLED A COUPLE OF GALS OFF A MINI-GOLF COURSE IN CIRCUMSTANCES NOT UNLIKE WHAT WE FIND OURSELVES IN NOW.*

SO THAT'S HOW YOU MEET WOMEN.

*DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON (2018) --CROB



AND WHERE DID WE GO FROM THERE?

TO SEE YOU, AT YOUR L.A. OFFICE, AS IT HAPPENS.



THE RUTHERFORD WINNER BUSINESS.

GOT IT IN ONE.

WHAT'S GOING ON, FURY?



MARIA HILL'S BEEN MURDERED.





A comic book illustration of Black Widow. She is crouched on a sandy, cracked ground, looking intensely at the viewer. She has long, vibrant red hair and is wearing her signature black tactical suit, which includes fingerless gloves and thigh-high boots. A black handgun is holstered on her back, pointing upwards. The background is a pale, hazy sky with some faint, dark lines suggesting distant objects or debris. Two speech bubbles are present: one in the upper right and another in the middle right.

"DO YOU REALLY
THINK THERE'S
ANYWHERE ON
THIS EARTH YOU
CAN RUN..."

"...THAT THE
BLACK WIDOW
WON'T COME
FOR YOU?"



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

HUH.
THE
BLACK
WIDOW.



POSSIBLY THE
GREATEST KILLER TO
WALK THE EARTH AT
PRESENT.

BETTER
THAN THE WINTER
SOLDIER.

BETTER
THAN ELEKTRA
NATCHIOS.

BETTER, IT
GOES WITHOUT
SAYING, THAN
YOU.



OH
NOOO...

FURY--
NICK--I'M
GOING TO DIE,
YOU GOT TO
HELP ME--



WAIT.

WHY ARE
YOU HELPING
ME?



MAYBE OUR
LONG HISTORY
TOGETHER HAS
PREDISPOSED ME
TO ENJOY YOUR
COMPANY,
TONY.

OR MAYBE
I HAVE A USE
FOR YOU.

LATER.

WAKE
UP. WE'RE
HERE.

SNRKK?

HUH?

WHERE ARE
WE?

CONNECTICUT. WANTED
TO PUT A STATE LINE
BETWEEN US AND
THE WIDOW.

BESIDES,
NOTHING I LIKE
MORE THAN A
ROAD TRIP WITH
SLEEP-APNEA
SKELETOR.

IT'S A MEDICAL
CONDITION,
JERK.

DO I MAKE
FUN OF YOUR
EYE?

FOR ALL YOUR
FAILINGS, TONY,
NO YOU DO
NOT.

NOW, YOU HAVE ANY
OTHER HURT FEELINGS
WE NEED TO ATTEND
TO, OR DO YOU WANT
TO GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS?

NOTHING
THAT CAN'T
WAIT.



WHEN I HEARD ABOUT HILL, AND BELIEVE ME, I WAS THE FIRST TO HEAR, I LOOKED IN ALL HER HIDING SPOTS.

I FIGURED, IF I KNEW WHAT SHE WAS WORKING ON, I COULD FIND OUT WHY SHE WAS KILLED.



I THOUGHT SHE WAS RETIRED?



THE MARIA HILLS OF THE WORLD DON'T RETIRE.

THEIR PROJECTS JUST BECOME PERSONAL RATHER THAN PROFESSIONAL.

JUST LIKE THIS CAPER YOU AND I FIND OURSELVES JOINED IN.

FWIP

OKAY, SO WHAT WAS SHE WORKING ON?

THOX

THAT'S THE THING, I DON'T KNOW.

CAN'T MAKE HEADS NOR TAILS OF IT.



SOMETHING CALLED RUBICON TRIGGER, A SYSTEM ON SOME OLD H.A.M.M.E.R. MAINFRAMES.

CAN'T CRACK IT THOUGH. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BIOMETRICS?

BIOMETRICS? HEY, NO PROBLEM. TELL ME WHOSE THUMBS WE GOT TO CUT OFF, AND I'LL GO GET THEM.

SOONER WE CLEAR MY NAME, SOONER THE WIDOW HAS NO REASON TO KILL ME.

NOT THAT EASY, TONY.



THIS SYSTEM IS LOCKED TO THE KINESIC SIGNATURE--THE GAIT AND BODY LANGUAGE--OF NOT ONE, BUT THREE PEOPLE.

TO ACCESS IT, YOU'D NEED TO GET THOSE THREE PEOPLE IN THE SAME ROOM AT THE SAME TIME, INPUTTING WITHIN 30 SECONDS OF EACH OTHER.

IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLICATE.



HUHH. I GET IT. IMPOSSIBLE...IF YOU'RE NOT ME.

CAN YOU DO IT? CAN YOU IMITATE THESE PEOPLE?

I THINK SO.

BUT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...? VIDEO WON'T CUT IT. I'D HAVE TO OBSERVE THEM PERSONALLY, UP CLOSE.



DAMN. I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.

WHY? WHO ARE THE PEOPLE?

CLIM



PHIL
COLLSON,
DIRECTOR OF THE
SQUADRON SUPREME
OF AMERICA
PROJECT.

OKOYE,
DIRECTOR OF
THE AGENTS OF
WAKANDA.

AND AMI HAN,
DIRECTOR OF
SOUTH KOREA'S
N.I.S. TIGER
DIVISION.

TOP
SPIES FROM
ALL AROUND THE
WORLD, SURROUNDED
BY SOME OF THE
MOST DANGEROUS
PEOPLE TO
EVER EXIST.



WELL,
AIN'T WE
GOT FUN.

**TO BE
CONTINUED!**

Using innate "photographic reflexes," Tony Masters is able to replicate any action he witnesses, no matter the complexity. Using these skills, combined with an arsenal of deadly facsimile weapons, he operates as a henchmen trainer and mercenary for hire known throughout the underworld as...

TASKMASTER

"THE RUBICON TRIGGER"

PART ONE

**JED
MacKAY**
WRITER

**ALESSANDRO
VITTI**
ARTIST

GURU-eFX
COLORIST

**VC's JOE
CARAMAGNA**
LETTERER

VALERIO GIANGIORDANO & ARIF PRIANTO
COVER ARTISTS

**NICK BRADSHAW & JOHN RAUCH;
MIKE HENDERSON & NOLAN WOODARD**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

**CHRIS
ROBINSON**
EDITOR

**JORDAN
D. WHITE**
SENIOR EDITOR

**C.B.
CEBULSKI**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

NEXT ISSUE



